IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 13 as follows:

1.   (Currently amended)   A router comprising:

a routing component that implements routing protocols for data processed by the router; and

an interface component for a user to view and modify features of the router in real-time, the interface component presenting the features of the router to the user as a hierarchical tree having attributes that store values relating to the router protocols and components that represent functionality of the router protocols, the components containing one or more sub-components or attributes, wherein the attributes are modifiable within a single initialization of the router.

2.   (Original)   The router of claim 1, wherein the interface component is accessible by a user through a command-line interface.

3.   (Original)   The router of claim 1, wherein the interface component is accessible by a user through a graphical interface.

4.   (Original)   The router of claim 1, wherein the interface component updates the router component in real-time to reflect changes made by the user to the attributes or the components.

5.   (Original)   The router of claim 1, wherein the router is a dedicated hardware router.

6.   (Original)   The router of claim 1, wherein the router is a general purpose computer.

7.   (Currently amended)   A method comprising:

organizing features relating to routing protocols of a router into a hierarchically formatted component tree;

displaying a portion of the hierarchically formatted component tree to a user in response to a first command from the user;

modifying the component tree in response to a second command from the user, wherein the attributes are modifiable within a single initialization of the router; and

updating, in real-time, features of the router relating to the routing protocol that were changed by the user when modifying the component tree.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the hierarchical component tree includes attributes that store values relating to the routing protocols and components that represent functionality of the routing protocols, the components containing one or more sub-components or attributes.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the first command is a display command.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the second command is a set preference command.

11.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a command-line interface.

12.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a graphical interface.

13.   (Currently amended)   A computer readable medium containing instructions for execution by a processor, the instructions, when executed:

organizing features relating to routing protocols of a router into a hierarchically

formatted component tree;

displaying a portion of the hierarchically formatted component tree to a user in response to a first command from the user;

modifying the component tree in response to a second command from the user, wherein the attributes are modifiable within a single initialization of the router; and

updating, in real-time, features of the router relating to the routing protocol that were changed by the user when modifying the component tree.

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the hierarchical component tree includes attributes that store values relating to the routing protocols and components that represent functionality of the routing protocols, the components containing one or more sub-components or attributes.

15. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the first command is a display command.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the second command is a set preference command.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a command-line interface.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the user inputs the first and second commands via a graphical interface.

19. (Original) The router of claim 1, the router operating after an initial initialization, and the attributes being modified after the initial initialization, but before a subsequent initialization.

20. (Original) The method of claim 7, further including initializing the

router, wherein the modifying of the component tree occurs after the initialization, but before a subsequent initialization.

21.   (Original)   The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the instructions further result in initializing the router, wherein the modifying of the component tree occurs after the initialization, but before a subsequent initialization.

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